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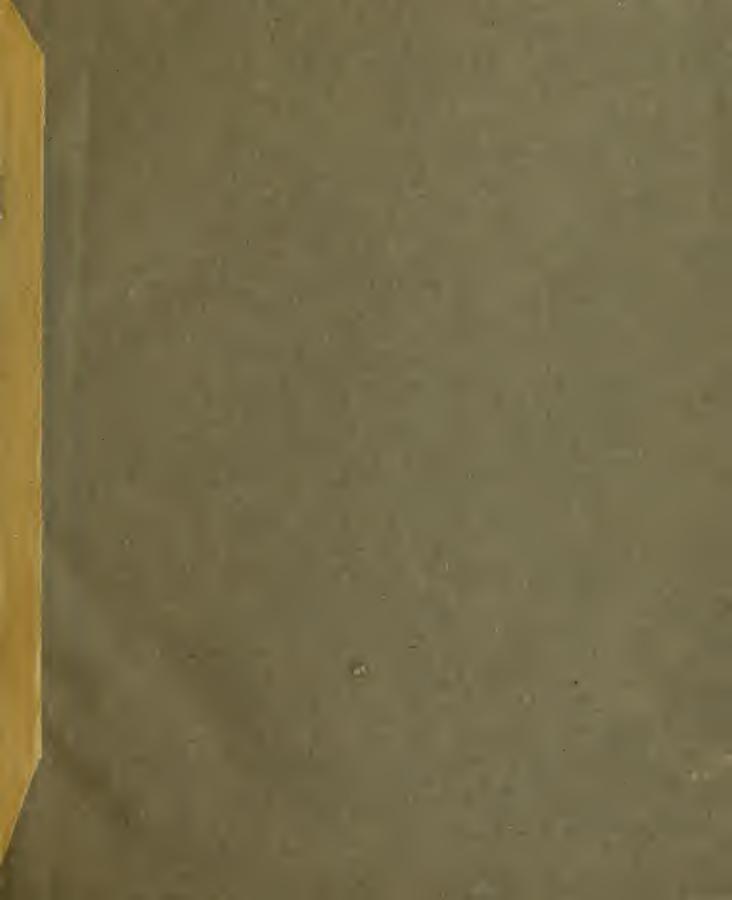
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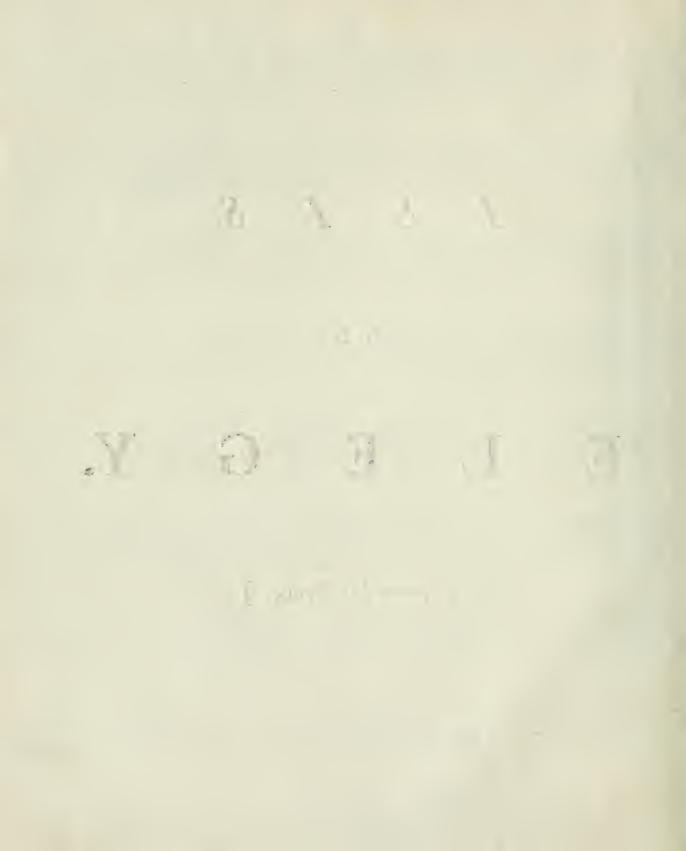


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## E L E G Y.

Written in the Year 1748,

By Mr. M A S O N.

Ω ΔΥΣΤΗΝΟΣ

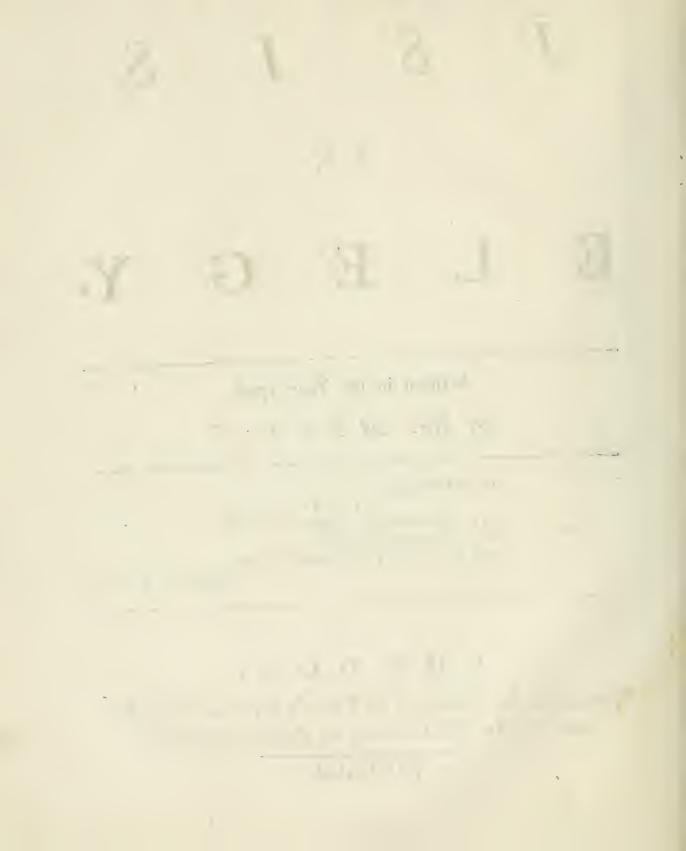
ΤΙ ΠΟΥ ΟΥ ΔΗ ΠΟΥ ΕΓ ΛΠΙCΤΟΥCAN ΤΟΙΟ ΒΑCIΛΕΙΟΙ CIN ΑΓΟΥCIN NOMOIC ΚΑΙ ΕΝ ΑΦΡΟΟΥΝΗ ΚΑΘΕΛΟΝΤΕΟ.

Sophocles in Antig.

### LONDON:

Printed for R. Dodsley at Tully's Head in Pall-Mall and Sold by M. Cooper in Pater-noster Row.

MDCCXLIX.



PR 354 Mai

## Advertisement.

THE following Poem would never have appeared in print, had not an interpolated copy of it, published in a country news-paper, scandalously misrepresented the principles of the Author.

Her urn sustain'd her arm, that sculptur'd vase Where Vulcan's art had lavish'd all it's grace; Here, full with life was heav'n-taught Science seen, Known by the laurel wreath and musing mein: There cloud-crown'd Fame, here Peace fedate and bland, Swell'd the loud trump, and wav'd the olive wand; While folemn domes, arch'd shades, and vista's green At well-mark'd distance close the sacred scene.

On this the Goddess cast an anxious look, Then dropt a tender tear, and thus she spoke: Yes, I cou'd once with pleas'd attention trace The mimic charms of this prophetic vafe; Then lift my head, and with enraptur'd eyes View on you plain the real glories rife.

AU FO

Yes, Ifis! oft hast thou rejoic'd to lead
Thy liquid treasures o'er you fav'rite mead,
Oft hast thou stopt thy pearly car to gaze,
While ev'ry Science nurs'd it's growing bays;
While ev'ry Youth with fame's strong impulse fir'd,
Prest to the goal, and at the goal untir'd,
Snatch'd each celestial wreath to bind his brow
The Muses, Graces, Virtues cou'd bestow.

E'en now fond Fancy leads th'ideal train,

And ranks her troops on Mem'ry's ample plain;

See! the firm leaders of my patriot line,

See! SIDNEY, RALEIGH, HAMDEN, SOMERS shine.

See Hough superior to a tyrant's doom

Smile at the menace of the slave of Rome.

B

Each foul whom truth cou'd fire, or virtue move,
Each breast strong panting with it's country's love,
All that to Albion gave the heart or head,
That wisely councell'd, or that bravely bled,
All, all appear; on me they grateful smile,
The well-earn'd prize of every virtuous toil
To me with silial reverence they bring,
And hang fresh trophies o'er my honour'd spring.

Ah! I remember well yon beachen fpray,
There Addison first tun'd his polish'd lay;
'Twas there great Cato's form first met his eye,
In all the pomp of free-born majesty.

- " My Son, he cry'd, observe this mein with awe,
- " In folemn lines the strong resemblance draw;

" The

- " The piercing notes shall strike each British ear,
- " Each British eye shall drop the patriot tear;
- " And rous'd to glory by the nervous strain,
- " Each Youth shall spurn at slav'ry's abject reign,
- " Shall guard with Cato's zeal Britannia's laws,
- " And speak, and act, and bleed, in freedom's cause."

The Hero spoke, the Bard affenting bow'd,
The lay to liberty and *Cato* flow'd;
While Echo, as she rov'd the vale along,
Join'd the strong cadence of his *Roman* song.

But ah! how Stillness slept upon the ground, How mute Attention check'd each rising sound;

B 2

Scarce

Scarce stole a breeze to wave the leafy spray, Scarce trill'd sweet Philomel her softest lay, When Locke walk'd musing forth; e'en now I view Majestic Wisdom thron'd upon his brow, View Candour smile upon his modest cheek, And from his eye all Judgment's radiance break. 'Twas here the fage his manly zeal exprest, Here stript vain Falshood of her gaudy vest; Here Truth's collected beams first fill'd his mind, E'er long to burst in bleffings on mankind; E'er long to show to reason's purged eye, That "Nature's first best gift was Liberty."

Proud of this wond'rous son, sublime I stood, (While louder surges swell'd my rapid flood)

Then

Then vain as Niobe, exulting cry'd,

Iliss! roll thy fam'd Athenian tide;

Tho' Plato's steps oft mark'd thy neighb'ring glade,

Tho' fair Lyceum lent it's awful shade,

Tho' ev'ry Academic green imprest

It's image full on thy resecting breast,

Yet my pure stream shall boast as proud a name,

And Britain's Isis slow with Attic same.

Alas! how chang'd! where now that Attic boast?

See! Gothic Licence rage o'er all my coast.

See! Hydra Faction spread it's impious reign,

Poison each breast, and madden ev'ry brain.

Hence frontless crouds that not content to fright

The blushing Cynthia from her throne of night,

Blast the fair face of day; and madly bold, To Freedom's foes infernal orgies hold; To Freedom's foes, ah! fee the goblet crown'd, Hear plausive shouts to Freedom's foes resound; The horrid notes my refluent waters daunt, The Echoes groan, the Dryads quit their haunt; Learning that once to all diffus'd her beam, Now sheds by stealth a partial private gleam, In some lone cloifter's melancholy shade Where a firm few support her fickly head; Despis'd, insulted by the barb'rous train, Who fcour like Thracia's moon-struck rout the plain, Sworn foes like them to all the Muse approves, All Phabus favours, or Minerva loves.

Are these the sons my fost'ring breast must rear? Grac'd with my name, and nurtur'd by my care, Must these go forth from my maternal hand To deal their infults thro' a peaceful land, And boast while Freedom bleeds, and Virtue groans, That "Is taught Rebellion to her Sons?" Forbid it heav'n! and let my rifing waves Indignant swell, and whelm the recreant slaves, In England's cause their patriot floods employ, As Xanthus delug'd in the cause of Troy. Is this deny'd? then point some secret way Where far far hence these guiltless streams may stray, Some unknown channel lend where nature spreads Inglorious vales and unfrequented meads,

There

There where a Hind scarce tunes his rustic strain,
Where scarce a Pilgrim treads the pathless plain
Content I'll slow; forget that e'er my tide
Saw you majestic structures crown its side;
Forget that e'er my wrapt attention hung
Or on the Sage's or the Poet's tongue,
Calm and resign'd my humbler lot embrace,
And pleas'd prefer oblivion to disgrace.

#### FINIS.



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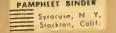
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